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## Ontario schools to remain closed following break

MIKE BAKER

*Local Journalism Initiative Reporter*

High school and elementary students in Ontario will be transitioning back to at-home learning following April Break, Premier Doug Ford confirmed on Monday [April 12].

Ford said the rapid spread of "deadly" COVID-19 variants from South Africa, the UK and Brazil had led to this latest decision.

"Right now we need to do everything possible to get ahead of these variants, and unfortunately that means looking at our schools," Ford said. "I know this is not what many of you want to hear... but until we get the numbers in the community down to where we need them – the problem is not in our schools, it is in our community – and bringing our kids back to a congregate setting in school after a week off in the community is a risk that

see NO TIME page 3



### Vaccination clinic is a go

Community volunteers gather and listen to instructions about how the vaccination clinic, which is being run by the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit (HKPRDHU), will operate, using the "hockey hub" concept on Friday, April 9 at the A.J. LaRue Arena in Haliburton. The walk-through for volunteers, who assist with screening, escorting and dismissing patients, and cleaning areas came days before the start of vaccinations on Monday, April 12. Clinics will be held three times per week - on Sundays, Mondays and Thursdays - with some Friday clinics also scheduled. Running until mid-June, the appointments will be held regularly from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the arena. To book an appointment; call 1-888-999-6488 or visit [covid-19.ontario.ca/book-vaccine/](http://covid-19.ontario.ca/book-vaccine/). To register as a volunteer, contact Ursula Devolin at [ursuladevolin@hotmail.com](mailto:ursuladevolin@hotmail.com). /DARREN LUM Staff

## New study focuses on substance use recovery and stigma in rural communities

SUE TIFFIN

*Local Journalism Initiative Reporter*

Sandra McNeil has been studying substance use recovery and stigma in rural communities as part of her work toward a PhD, and found that what she has learned from residents living in rural areas is important to share.

McNeil said she was working as a ther-

apist at a community addiction agency and was finding that despite the presence of mental health initiatives and anti-stigma campaigns, the population she was working with who were identifying with substance use issues were not experiencing reduced stigma.

"And so, it just caused me to ask why," said McNeil. "Why does it seem that people, I mean, stigma is a problem for mental health and substance use for sure, but

why does it seem to be acknowledged that we can't stigmatize against people like that because it's an illness, whereas people that have substance use issues, the stigma was still alive and well and operating."

When she began looking into the area of recovery, she said recovery from substance use and recovery from mental health have two different understandings based on notions of recovery in govern-

ment, media, and by professionals.

"Recovery from substance use was historically about abstinence, or at least, tapering down until people get to abstinence, whereas recovery in the mental health field was focused on beliefs that people deserve to be treated with dignity and respect regardless of their mental health and substance use, to be experts

see RESEARCHER page 2



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# Researcher encourages people to 'join the fight against stigma'

from page 1

of their own lives, in terms of what they need or don't need, to participate in shared decision making and have access to resources like medical care, income support, housing, employment, transportation, you know, all of those things," said McNeil. "That was kind of the difference in those two understandings of recovery."

McNeil has lived in a rural community for more than 30 years, and works in rural communities as well, but said there is a shortage of research on substance use, recovery and stigma conducted in rural areas. She set out to change that, with a study into how we are understanding recovery.

First, she examined two federal Canadian documents that discuss recovery in Canada: 2006's *Out of the shadows at last: Transforming mental health, mental illness, and addiction services in Canada. Final Report of the Senate Standing Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology* and 2015's *Guidelines for recovery-oriented practice: Hope. Dignity. Inclusion.*

"What I found was that people with substance use issues were often not mentioned in these recovery documents, and more attention was focused on mental health, even though we're trying to understand substance use as a mental health condition," she said. "So that was one of the first things. The second thing I noticed is that when people with substance use issues were referred to, they were referred to with negative language - damaged, inmates, junkies. Often referred to as being vulnerable and at-risk. The other thing I noticed is that some of our social groups - women, older adults, youth, LGBTQ, racialized people, they were described as being especially at-risk. That's not to say they're not, but it certainly does kind of categorize them, which is what I was noticing."

Very little was said, McNeil noted, about people living in rural areas, "so it's almost like we're invisible."

"And then they had this description of what recovery was," she said. "So even though there wasn't supposed to be any one right way of recovery, the documents are permeated with this description of this ideal person in recovery, and that person doesn't use substances, they get help from their family/friends/peer supports and professionals so they can stop using, they are responsible, they make healthy choices, they contribute to society, whether they volunteer or have a job. They have a car and a house and nice stuff, belongings. There exists this construction of the ideal recovery person. They have supportive family, healthy relationships and I want to be really, really clear, there's nothing inherently wrong with that, it does work for a lot of people, but one of the problems is that it doesn't work for everybody. And those



Sandra McNeil, a local PhD student, says stigma surrounding substance abuse recovery is still rife in many parts of the country.

are the people that end up experiencing stigma and those negative stereotypes continue to be perpetuated, because there are a number of people that just don't fit."

The second part of her study involved speaking to people living with substance use issues in rural areas to better understand how substance use recovery and stigma affect people's lives in those rural areas, leading to a recruitment campaign looking for people in City of Kawartha Lakes and Haliburton County with past or present substance use issues to participate in a voluntary and confidential one-on-one interview.

The response, said McNeil, was incredible.

Forty men and women - roughly half from Haliburton County and half from City of Kawartha Lakes - ranging in age from 17 to 72, responded to McNeil's study recruitment efforts. She thinks it's significant that 85 per cent of those respondents had annual income less than \$30,000, and also that the majority had lived in a city at one point, noting their responses were reinforced in that they were able to compare their experiences to life in an urban area. She credits "overwhelming support and enthusiasm from community and health care providers in both City of Kawartha Lakes and Haliburton County" in helping to complete her recruitment, and the participants themselves for reaching out.

"I was just thrilled with how many people were willing to speak with me," she said.

In interviews that took place from January to May 2019, she asked people about the notion of recovery, what it means to them, and then about stigma.

"Under the category of recovery, many, many people talked about losing everything because of their substance use, so that points back to jobs, homes, cars, families, possessions, relationships, even their identity and their self-esteem," said

McNeil. "To them, recovery meant getting these things back. And for me that begged the question, so why do they have to lose those things in the first place?"

Many people agreed, said McNeil, that that is what recovery is - getting those things back.

"And they said that recovery from substance use also means not using, getting help, making good choices, holding a job, being a responsible citizen who makes positive contributions to society, you know all of those things from the documents were also in the participant's narratives, so it is valid, but ... they also said, those things are not that simple."

Study participants also spoke to harm reduction - that recovery can still include using substances while trying to reduce harm.

"They argued that healthy choices are often impossible, when they are excluded from employment, volunteering, parenting, whatever it is that they're being restricted from," said McNeil. "They gave examples of being stigmatized by health-care providers, employers, landlords, because of - not only their substance use, but their ability, whether it was mental or physical, their appearance, their weight, their age, and whether they had a fixed address. And they said that family, friends and professionals who were 'supposed' to be supportive, often blamed them and shamed them. And it showed that people with substance use issues are often stigmatized and excluded if they don't meet this ideal recovery identity. And at the same time, they can't meet the ideal recovery identity when they're being stigmatized and excluded from society. And also, on top of that, this ideal recovery - these norms, if you will, may not be desirable for everybody. And that's an element too."

McNeil said she found that the "recovery as the documents constructed was validated by the participants, but it was also resisted."

Some participants compared their substance use to a physical illness, noting that illnesses such as cancer aren't stigmatized in the same way and that illness in general shouldn't be stigmatized.

Some participants also challenged stigma, in healthcare systems, child protection and insurance companies, by making formal complaints and getting legal supports, sometimes to fight discrimination.

"They really took it to certain levels to fight against stigma, and they had incredible insight to question the role of media, and how it portrays alcohol in positive ways and how it describes maybe celebrity overdoses as being accidental in a more glamorous way than they would talk about people that just overdosed in the community on the street," said

McNeil. "So incredible insight and questions on some of the policies that we have, that legalize some drugs but don't legalize others, and the methadone clinics that financially benefit from opioid addiction and most of the participants, almost all of them, took personal responsibility for their substance use and recovery but they also highlighted the responsibility of medical, pharmaceutical and government systems."

When the interviews were conducted, McNeil said she was "blown away" by the openness of participants and their comfort in sharing.

"I wonder if it speaks to the importance of being heard and having someone actually take the time to listen," she said.

McNeil said though we know so much, actually putting some of it into practice can be difficult.

"I really believe that we have to think about substance use stigma in terms of changing our own attitudes and beliefs and not focusing on changing the people with substance use issues," she said. "That's kind of my position. I know it's not the only position, and there's a number of different interventions that have to work in collaboration with each other, but my position is that we have to understand how power operates in society, and that there are people in positions of power, whether it's the government or media or doctors, that construct a certain type of recovery for a certain type of person. And, that construction kind of permeates through society and we all start to believe that it's true, we just assume it. But there's many, many people with substance issues that don't fit that ideal and so they get stigmatized."

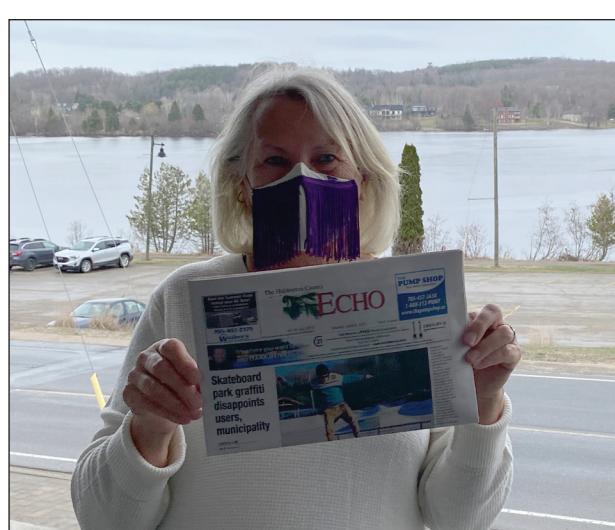
To change this, McNeil said we need to listen carefully, and question our own assumptions rather than focusing on "fixing" people with substance use issues.

"It was incredibly eye-opening to me, to really, really listen and understand how complex this is and make a commitment to - if that's what you believe you need to do - make a commitment to join that fight against stigma, support them in their human rights and support an equitable standard of living," she said. A basic income program is a good example of that, she said, as is recognizing that it is society's choice to choose how to perceive this issue, and how to respond to it.

With the research done and articles almost submitted for publication, McNeil now begins the process of dissemination, and has plans to present some of her findings to community agencies, or the community itself through in-person presentations - when possible - or perhaps through a short film that makes the information accessible within the community and beyond.

## The Lake Whisperer

Susan Little was the winner of the Echo's 2021 Ice Out contest, having correctly guessed the last slab of ice in Head Lake would melt on April 8. This is the second straight year that Susan has won the competition. She wins a one year subscription to the Echo, and a \$50 gift card to a local restaurant of her choosing. /MIKE BAKER Staff



# New Medical Officer of Health urges public to 'stay vigilant'

SUE TIFFIN

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Dr. Natalie Bocking officially assumed the role of medical officer of health for the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge district health unit on April 6, replacing Dr. Lynn Noseworthy, who retired in December 2020 and Dr. Ian Gemmill, who had served as acting medical officer of health from then until Bocking's start.

That same day, a press release from the health unit was issued stating: "Until everyone has been vaccinated, the local medical officer of health is urging people to remain vigilant and continue to follow public health recommendations to help stop the increased spread of the COVID-19 virus in the area."

According to the press release, local health unit staff had conducted investigations on more than 94 new confirmed COVID-19 cases in the past seven days – the bulk of those cases in Northumberland County. Haliburton County's cases jumped from 0 on March 31 to eight on April 3, with one variant of concern identified last week. Of the 94 COVID-19 cases confirmed in that time, more than 26 per cent were among youth aged 14 to 18 years of age, prompting the health unit and two local school boards to suspend in-person learning at two secondary schools in Cobourg.

"When it comes to COVID-19, younger people still tend to experience milder symptoms and recover fully," says Dr. Bocking. "Our concern is that some family members that they bring this virus home to – their siblings, parents and grandparents – will not fare as well and become quite ill. We have worked with the school boards in areas where we are seeing active transmission to try and stop any further exposure or spread that could potentially occur either through the schools or in our communities." As of this week, two mass vaccination clinics are open in Haliburton County, with one at the S.G. Nesbitt arena opening last week until July before moving to the community centre, and one at the A.J. LaRue arena opening this week until June before moving to an as-yet-undetermined location.

"These are all steps in the right direction but until more vaccine is delivered locally to increase the number of people who can be vaccinated, Dr. Bocking is urging people to continue to follow the public health recommendations," reads the press release, noting the continued importance of handwashing; staying home if ill; keeping a distance of more than six feet between your-



New HKPR medical officer of health Dr. Natalie Bocking.

self and others outside of household members; staying home except for essential reasons (groceries, medication, work); wearing a mask in public and covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue.

## Health unit getting assistance with case and contact management

Due to a surge in local cases, as of April 9, the health unit is getting extra support with COVID-19 case follow-up.

Approximately 40 per cent of eligible cases of COVID-19 are being assigned for follow-up to the Ontario Ministry of Health's provincial work force. According to an April 9 press release from the health unit, the PWF is "a centralized case and contact management team that was created within the Ministry of Health to help with pandemic response. Its staff include trained contact tracers and case managers, who are already assisting many other public health units across Ontario, including those in Windsor-Essex, Ottawa, Hamilton, Halton, Toronto, Waterloo, Peel and York."

The health unit press release notes that residents will not notice a difference in case and contact management – which includes contact tracing investigation – efforts.

"Anyone who needs to be contacted in connection with COVID-19 will continue to be followed up by qualified public health professionals, who can offer them the advice and guidance they need to stay safe and prevent further spread," said Dr. Bocking. "We're extremely grateful for this extra provincial support. It comes at a

critical juncture, when our staff are already extremely busy responding to a surge in local COVID-19 cases, providing COVID-19 vaccinations at mass immunization clinics across our region, and carrying out other pandemic response work."

## Two variants of concern identified in Haliburton County

Two local cases of COVID-19 has been identified as a variant of concern, while in total, 44 cases in City of Kawartha Lakes and 102 cases in Northumberland County have screened positive as variants of concern.

"We know the majority of cases in Ontario are variants of concern and this is also the case in our area," said Bocking in an April 6 press release. "As we have been hearing, these variants spread more quickly and easily than the original COVID virus and we are seeing that happen as well."

Variants of concern previously identified in Haliburton County were removed from the local count and transferred to another health unit region where the individual who tested positive lives full-time.

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## No time frame for reopening

from page 1

I won't take."

There was no time frame given for when students can expect to return to the classroom.

Another 217 school-related cases of COVID-19, including 186 students, 30 staff and one person who was not identified were reported on Monday. As of press time, around 27 per cent of Ontario's 4,828 publicly-funded schools has at least one confirmed case of the illness.

Schools in Haliburton County have been impacted fairly recently. Back on March 14, it was revealed that a Grade 11 chemistry class, a Grade 12 English class, and a Grade 12 math class from Haliburton Highlands Secondary School were quarantining after being identified as close contacts of two students who tested positive for

COVID-19.

Last week, on April 6, it was confirmed that a positive COVID-19 case had been recorded at Archie Stouffer Elementary School.

Education minister Stephen Lecce informed the public on Monday that school boards will be directed to provide continued in-person support for students with special education needs who cannot learn remotely, and that, from April 19, childcare for non-school aged children will reopen, while free emergency childcare will be provided to health care and frontline workers.

"Our government will continue to listen to the advice of public health experts. We will update parents once a safe return to in-person learning is recommended," Lecce said.

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# Beloved Dorset store under new ownership

SUE TIFFIN

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Mike and Katie Hinbest made a choice to set out to live their most ideal life, and in doing so, will become the owners of the iconic Robinson's General Store in Dorset as of May 1.

The couple moved from Orangeville to Huntsville a few years ago, looking for something different. He worked in automotive repair, owning a Napa Auto Parts for almost a decade, while she has a background in healthcare as a recreation therapist working to improve the quality of life for patients who have had a stroke or lung disease.

"We realized, we started looking at our life a few years back now, a good three or four years ago, and realizing that Orangeville wasn't as small a community as it used to be, and every time we got a spare moment we always went north, we always came back to Muskoka and to Haliburton and so on," said Mike. He said the couple have a "live your dream" philosophy.

"Don't live one day unhappy," he said. "So we sat back and said, you know what, let's move north and live our dream," he said. "Life's too short."

## Local owners Brandon and Megan Nimigon are excited to introduce Jim Allder



You could say that Jim has the Highlands in his blood, as he's enjoyed coming to his family's cottage since he was a youngster. Jim has over 15 years of award winning sales experience, and has enjoyed every minute of his career creating great friendships along the way. Jim has been interested in real estate for years, and like many people, COVID has helped him make a positive career change sooner than expected. Jim and his wife have three daughters who live in Minden. He enjoys music, playing guitar, watching sports, fishing and hunting.

Jim is looking forward to putting his many years of sales experience to good use, helping people realize their dreams of home ownership right here in the beautiful Haliburton Highlands



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Jim Allder - Sales Representative  
Cell: 705.935.1112  
Email: Jim.Allder@century21.ca

## Local owners Brandon and Megan Nimigon are excited to introduce Kirby Keks



For over thirty years, Kirby has been diligently working with his customers, noting their needs and wants, and skillfully coming up with solutions that work best for them. Ten years ago, Kirby discovered the beauty of the Haliburton Highlands for himself when he purchased his first home here. Kirby embraces the Highlands year round, enjoying the great outdoors snowmobiling, skiing and snow shoeing in the winter; boating, fishing and golfing in the summer. In his new role as a sales representative at Century 21 Granite Realty Group Inc., Kirby is looking forward to helping other people make their dreams come true. Whether you are looking for a permanent residence, or a weekend cottage retreat, Kirby would be happy to help your dreams become reality.



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Kirby Keks - Sales Representative  
Cell: 416.525.9978  
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As they were going through the process of listing their business for sale and beginning to look for a house, Mike's younger brother tragically passed away at the age of 30.

"That really changed our perspective on life - as for anybody, that big shock in life just changes you, and we realized that life is extremely short, and you'd better enjoy what you do every day," said Mike. "Part of us moving up here was for lifestyle, enjoyment, raising our kids [Ethan and Brie] the way we feel they should be and we basically sat back and said, OK, what's next for us, what do we enjoy doing?"

When Mike was young, his family had a cottage in Haliburton on Little Kennisis Lake.

"There's where we first learned of Dorset, actually," he said, noting that he and his family snowmobiled in the area, which he and Katie continued to do years later, cottaging and camping in the Muskoka and Haliburton area.

"We carried the tradition on," said Katie.

That Mike and Katie care about tradition is essential for the community as the Hinbests become the new owners of the beloved store that has been in the Robinson family for 100 years this year, with four generations of the family owning



Mike and Katie Hinbest, who moved to Huntsville from Orangeville a few years back, become the new owners of Robinson's General Store on May 1. Robinson's, a shopping spot so iconic it is a Dorset tourist attraction, was in the Robinson family for 100 years prior to the sale./Submitted photo

or working in Robinson's General Store, which operates seven days a week, year round.

"In the beginning, the store was a 1,200-square-foot traditional general store, there to service the logging industry and the few locals," reads the website. "It struggled through the depression, then the war years, until 1950 when the first

building addition was constructed. After that, whenever the store was able to accumulate a bit of money, another expansion was built. Now, 15 additions later, the store has grown to over 14,000 square feet of retail space."

Mike remembers visiting Robinson's General Store in his youth.

"It's just so surreal to remember seeing something as a child, and having no idea that 30 years later you are going to be a part of this, in this community," he said. "It's so cool. It's awesome for that to happen. To see that kind of stuff in life. You just never know."

Mike had sat down to write out ideas of what his dream job might look like, then sat back, list in hand, to brainstorm which businesses might encompass those ideas. It was then he saw that Brad Robinson had listed Robinson's for sale.

"Once I saw it, it was a no-brainer," he said. "It just felt like the place I wanted to be ... It's just so much fun. I love the idea of that iconic, cottage country store that families and generations remember forever and those types of memories are what I really enjoy so just being able to do that for other people is something special and fun."

"Mike is very business-savvy and passionate about things," said Katie. "So if he really loves something, [he has] a gut feeling, 'I have to do this, I have to be here.'"

"How am I just so lucky that I'm getting to live my dream right now?" he said. "You just feel so fortunate."

Mike said the stories of the past that Brad has shared with him are compelling, and he hopes to be able to uphold the tradition of what Robinson's has nurtured

see HINBESTS page 14

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Joel Ideson, left, Brian Nash, centre and Carolina Barberi, right, are looking to hand out 100 'Humphreys' to deserving members of the community. /Submitted

## New initiative looks to honour frontline and essential workers

MIKE BAKER

*Local Journalism Initiative Reporter*

Carolina Barberi and Joel Ideson have taken the pledge – now they're looking for the local community to do their part.

The couple, who recently announced they had taken ownership of Haliburton Solar + Wind, are paying homage to frontline and essential workers who have consistently gone above and beyond during these past 14 months of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Community is really important to the both of us, and so as new business owners we knew pretty quickly we wanted to do something to give back to this area," Barberi said. "We came up with the idea to donate money, \$500 quarterly, to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation [HHHSF]. Our hospitals need our support now more than ever."

But that didn't feel quite good enough, she added.

"I had this feeling that we should do something more. There are so many people who have worked crazy hours, and have had to make large adjustments to their life because of this pandemic, and we felt it was important to recognize these people, to acknowledge them, and tell them 'thank you' on behalf of the community," Barberi noted.

And so, having already worked closely with the hospital foundation to set up their quarterly donation, Barberi and Ideson borrowed from a popular ongoing fundraiser to launch their 100 Bear Pledge.

Since 1998, HHHSF has raised around \$150,000 for hospitals and healthcare facilities in the region by leading an annual fundraiser initiative selling stuffed animals. This year, the offering is 'Humphrey' the bear.

After learning of this drive, Barberi and Ideson committed to purchasing 100 stuffed bears and distributing them to "deserving" members of the community.

"We're looking for people to contact us and let us know about an essential worker, or someone special they know of that has made a real difference to the community over the past year," Ideson said. "I think

this has been a pretty crappy time for most people, there have been a lot of challenges, a lot of stress, so we're hoping this will help people to feel good, and feel appreciated."

Nominations for the 100 Bear Pledge will be open through to the end of 2021, with Barberi and Ideson hoping to hand out two bears per week for the remainder of the year. Suggestions can be sent directly to [cbarberi@haliburtonsolardwind.com](mailto:cbarberi@haliburtonsolardwind.com), or by calling 705-455-2637 ext. 105.

Reflecting on their recent purchase of Haliburton Solar + Wind, Barberi says it feels like a natural progression having moved to the Highlands in 2016 to help run the firm.

"I've known Brian [Nash, the former owner of Haliburton Solar + Wind] since 1998. I worked closely with him in one of his other businesses, and we always got along really well. We were living in Barrie at the time when Brian asked if I wanted to come to Haliburton," Barberi said. "At first I wasn't sure, but committed to coming up and seeing what the area was like. I rented a place, started working, and pretty quickly decided this would be a really good thing."

Ideson, a master electrician, soon followed. He spent a few years working alongside local contractors, but joined Haliburton Solar + Wind full-time in August.

That move followed on the footsteps of a conversation the pair had with Nash, who was looking for someone to take over the day-to-day running of the business. He will be staying on with the firm as a business advisor and alternative energy expert.

Haliburton Solar + Wind specializes in off-grid complete home power, with a focus on smart home device integration. While the business previously contracted out all of its electrical work, with Ideson joining the team all services, such as installing alternative energy systems, wiring a home or cottage, adding an electric vehicle charger, or installing inverter battery back-up systems in the event a home loses power, can all be handled in-house.

While the company currently serves both off-grid and grid connected clients, Ideson expects that to shift in the coming years. He

see INTEREST page 18



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# points of view



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Haliburton, ON, K0M 1S0

• 705-457-1037 • Fax 705-457-3275  
Published by White Pine Media Corp



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*Forever in our memories: Creighton Feir*

## Finding the middle ground

JUST HOW much responsibility does a government, or we as a society have when it comes to ensuring our poorest and most vulnerable individuals are sufficiently taken care of?

Just this past weekend, with this editorial firmly in mind, I posed that very same question to a dozen of my closest friends and family members.

I had mostly positive responses, with comments generally centred around the belief that we do have a responsibility to help those in need. There were references to people with physical and developmental disabilities, the unemployed, those with mental health issues and the elderly. There are various programs available to individuals, both provincially and federally - but do these supports go far enough?

According to advocacy group Canada Without Poverty, there are nearly five million Canadians living in poverty. Given that our national population, as of 2020, is slated at around 38 million, that would mean approximately 13 per cent of all residents are living under the poverty line.

The federal government published an official poverty dashboard last February, shining a light on issues that affect millions of Canadians. That particular report states that 12.7 per cent of Canadians had unmet housing needs, 11.2 per cent reported having unmet health needs, and 8.7 per cent faced issues surrounding food security. Interestingly, the report also noted that only 51.2 per cent of Canadians reported having enough savings to maintain their wellbeing for a period of three months in the event of a sudden job loss, illness or injury.

A month later, the COVID-19 pandemic hit and the theoretical problem of having to support one's self and family without an income became a reality for many. The federal government was quick to jump in, creating several programs, including the Canada Emergency Response Benefit, in an attempt to help people get by. Approximately nine million individuals have accessed

CERB, which gave a monthly stipend of \$2,000. The total cost of the program is estimated at around \$75 billion.

The introduction of CERB seemed to revive the idea of a basic income program. The Ontario government, then led by the Liberals under Kathleen Wynne, dipped their toes into the water on this back in 2018. Around 4,000 people residing in Hamilton, Thunder Bay, Brantford and Lindsay were enrolled, with individuals told they would receive approximately \$17,000 annually over a three-year period. Doug Ford was quick to cancel the program later that year.

It's been difficult to gauge whether or not the basic income pilot was a success given the limited time that people benefitted from it. Having friends in Lindsay who qualified, I know it did some good. It also had its flaws, and was abused by those who found a way to cheat the system.

Would a more permanent program, rolled out nationwide, help to reduce poverty in Canada? Many experts believe it would, but it'd come at a considerable cost.

Back in 2018, the Office of the Parliamentary Budget Officer estimated that a national

basic income program modelled on the Ontario pilot would cost \$76 billion annually, and would benefit 7.7 million Canadians. Even taking into account the estimated reduced costs in many areas, a basic income initiative would still come at a price of around \$43 billion per year.

Given that total expenditures in the last federal budget in 2019 came in at \$355.6 billion, adding another 12 or 13 per cent to that total for a basic income program is not feasible long-term.

While we do have a responsibility to help those who are most in need, there is a limit to what that responsibility should be. We do not live in a perfect world. Assistance should be provided to those who need it, but not at the cost of bankrupting the whole system. There is a middle ground that our politicians need to find.



*mike  
baker*

## Editorial



Sunrise over Head Lake

by Darren Lum

## Granola

**M**APLE SYRUP making season has come and gone for another year. We love making maple syrup because it is a transition from skiing season to cycling season. It gets us outside in the early spring all day.

Jim and his buddy combine their love of birding as they hang buckets, collect sap and boil it off. I have a friend who I help and we combine our love of being with our dogs as we go about all of the tasks. The best part of course is that, at the end of the process, we each have some litres of sap that we get to enjoy in all of our favourite ways.

I like to make the world's best homemade granola with maple syrup. This recipe was given to me many years ago from a friend we camp with. We have taken it on all of our camping trips because it is so delicious and filling. There is nothing like sitting on a rock on Georgian Bay with a good cup of coffee and a bowl of this granola. It starts the day off perfectly. I also make this recipe at home and now send it to Madeline for her and her roomies in Kingston. The recipe is below and it can be gluten free by taking out the wheat bran and wheat germ, and using gluten free oats!

**Dry Mix:** (I usually cut the recipe in half)

6 cups rolled oats

1 cup sunflower seeds, raw, unsalted

1 cup wheat germ

.5 cup unsweetened large coco-

**nut**  
.5 cup white untoasted sesame seeds  
.5 cup wheat bran  
.5 cup pumpkin seeds  
.5 raw almond slices

**Wet Mix:**  
1 cup maple syrup  
3/4 cup vegetable oil  
1/2 tsp salt  
1 tbbsp vanilla  
Garnish (I put these in once it has cooled)  
2 cups raisons  
2 cups currents (I don't use these)

2 cups chopped nuts (pecans, walnuts etc.)

Hemp Hearts  
Chia Seeds  
Preheat the oven to 375. Make the dry mix by combining the oats, sunflower seeds, coconut, sesame seeds, pumpkin seeds (just use whatever you have in the house, it takes great if you don't use all the ingredients. I don't use the wheat germ or bran because I

make mine gluten free). Set aside the dry ingredients. In another bowl mix maple syrup, veg oil, salt and vanilla. Stir well. Pour the wet mixture over the dry and mix well. If making the whole recipe, I cook half of it at a time on a cookie sheet with parchment paper on it. I put in the oven and check it every 7 or 8 minutes to stir it and monitor its progress. I cook till it looks a golden colour so depending on how hot your oven is 20 minutes or so. You will know when it looks and feels done. Enjoy everyone!

## green meadow



*lynda  
shadbolt*

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# points of view

## Small trap lines

AS AN OUTDOORSMAN, I have hunted and fished for just about everything Ontario has to offer. I've also hiked and camped in all seasons, collected wild edibles, gone on long canoe trips, and learned to identify wildflowers and all sorts of animal sign. The only thing missing from my outdoors résumé was experience in trapping. But all that changed last weekend.

That's when I set up my first trap line. Admittedly, it was a small line, consisting of a few ant and wasp traps. But you have to start somewhere, right?

I am hesitant to mention this because there are many people, especially in the city who do not understand the importance of trapping and are therefore against it.

Basically, there are two kinds of trapping: nuisance trapping and trapping for pelts.

When I explained this to Jenn, she rightly assumed I fell under the nuisance category. Then, because she doesn't understand the trapping lifestyle, she asked me not to wear snowshoes and a coon-skin hat in, and around, the house.

That was unfortunate because, once you get rid of those, trapping is not as romantic as people make it out to be.

So why do it?

Well, wasps and ants are showing up in noticeable numbers in and around our house. The latter are having parties around our sugar bowl and the former are hanging out under our eaves, presumably to shake me down any time I leave the house.

That's why I set up five box-style ant traps which seem to be working fine. I haven't seen any ants in a few days. Then again, I misplaced my glasses around that time too.

The wasps are much smarter. They have been avoiding my homemade wasp trap, which should work perfectly. Otherwise, why would that design have been approved for publication on the Internet?

That particular trap is built out of a one litre plastic water bottle. You simply cut off the top and nest it inverted into the rest of the bottle to create something that works like a transparent lobster trap. Then you fill the part below the spout with sugar water and hang it in any location where wasps gather – for instance, around my neck.

Wasps are supposed to descend through the spout to get to the sugar water – and then get stuck swimming in sugar water. Other wasps will then see them and think they are having a pool party and crash it.

What I have learned, however, is that a wasp will never pass through the spout of any bottle unless you are drinking from it at the time and look the other way.

Thus far, I have not trapped a single wasp – probably because they've got too much to live for. It did get one married one, however, as well as two beetles and three or four ants – which, I'm starting to think, are the least suspicious creatures on the face of the planet.

Later on, I'll probably begin to target black flies, house flies and deer flies – which means I'll probably catch more ants. My plan is to work my way up the insect chain until they all realize it's best to steer clear of any container ants enter.

The only insect I refuse to trap is millipedes. Who could afford all those legs hold traps?



## Loon Tales

steve  
galea



## pic of the past

A birdseye view of Haliburton from the early 1900s. /Submitted by Doreen Rae

## letters to the editor

## Looking for history on local lakes

To the Editor,

We are writing a book about the history of Drag Lake/Spruce Lake and Outlet Bay (1869's to the present) and we were saddened to hear of Leopoldina Dobrzensky's death. We have been in touch with her several times over the past few months and she loaned us some of her original research material used to write *ragments of a Dream-Pioneering in Dysart Township and Haliburton Village* and we are so grateful to her for that. *Fragments of a Dream* was ground breaking research and writing about the European settlement of a part of the Highlands and has been used by many other researchers who followed her. Her death is a loss to all of us and especially those that are still chasing the history of the Highlands.

We are interested in talking to people about the history of Drag (Porcupine) Lake, Spruce (Art) Lake and Outlet Bay (Mud Lake) and the origins of the over 55 roads that penetrate the lake particularly in the cottage development period from 1930 to the present. We have traced over 40 of them to date, identified at least 7 camps that operated, uncovered the history of Drag Lake Lodge/Domain of Killien, and have heard and confirmed many tale tales and stories about the lake. If you have a story or old photos about Dudley/Dysart/Drag Lake et al we would love to hear from you to help us tell the history accurately and comprehensively.

Charles and Laurie Wheeler  
Haliburton

## Public health care needs everyone on the same page

To the Editor,

Chuck Viner's letter of March 30, 2021 highlights a remarkable disconnect between science, community health and personal freedoms. I whole heartily agree with his alarm that someone providing health care would be permitted to abstain from a lifesaving vaccination for any reason while still able to keep their job. Over 2.8 million(!) people worldwide and more than 23,000 Canadians (the population of Brockville Ontario) have perished.

Individuals who can't or won't be vaccinated should, at best, be placed on unpaid leave, as some have suggested. Their alternative is to find employment in an environment that doesn't put a premium on good health. Furthermore, the sug-

gestion that the company that employs this reluctant individual might refuse service to Mr. Viner, if he denies unvaccinated entry, is unconscionable.

Sorry, the good of the community far outweighs the wishes and rights of the individual when it comes to all sorts of circumstances, not the least of which is a catastrophic, global pandemic. It boggles that anyone working in any aspect of public health care...doctors, nurses, admin staff, paramedics, EMTs, pharmacists, dentists, labs and so on could be so naïve and self-centered. It is equally bewildering why our health care system would allow such a situation to arise in the first place.

Sean Pennylegion  
Haliburton



Have a thought, comment or opinion you'd like to share?

Send a letter to the editor to  
mike@haliburtonpress.com

# Be prepared when venturing out in the woods

DARREN LUM

Staff Reporter

Last month two lost hikers needed to be rescued by the OPP in the Queen Elizabeth II Wildlands Provincial Park. It was a reminder of the dangers related to venturing into the woods when not prepared.

Even before the recent provincial stay-at-home order, Ontario Parks wanted the public to limit travel and adhere to provincial recommendations said Natalie McMorrow, park superintendent for the Queen Elizabeth II Wildlands, Balsam Lake and Indian Point.

"As much as people love to visit Ontario Parks, we are still hoping people will limit travel to follow provincial guidelines at the time, depending on where we're at with COVID-19. We're encouraging everyone to do their part by minimizing their risk to ourselves and others by continuing to follow public health advice," she said. "We certainly know we're having visitors, but we just want to make sure that everyone is taking steps to reduce their exposure to the virus and to protect themselves and others."

The Queen Elizabeth II is a massive non-operating park at 33,505-hectares, spanning from Minden to Gravenhurst.

However, it's acknowledged that people will still travel, which could include outdoor activities such as going into the woods of Ontario Parks. McMorrow said it's important that visitors equip themselves with knowledge and prepare for any eventuality.

"Recently, we formed a designated phone line that has a long information message at the beginning, but it's pretty valuable for people that might know how big this park is and how many different user groups are in there," McMorrow said.

She recommends visitors to use the (705) 454-3324 ext. 5226 number. This line is checked daily and staff will return calls to ensure people receive help, she said. She encouraged the public to visit the Ontario Parks website ([www.ontarioparks.com/park/queenelizabeth2wildlands](http://www.ontarioparks.com/park/queenelizabeth2wildlands)) for the QEII because it not only offers recommendations about planning updates about the park, but also includes a downloadable map with campsites and trail information. The map can be downloaded to any device and used offline and doesn't require internet connectivity to navigate, which can be an issue in the area.

There are a diverse range of activities available to do at the park, which boasts with 100 kilometres of Ganaraska hiking trails. Established in 2002, the park provides a setting for hiking, paddling, fishing, camping, boating, snowshoeing, and with restrictions even hunting and snowmobiling. McMorrow points out there aren't any designated bicycling trails at the Queen Elizabeth II Wildlands. Currently, overnight camping is unavailable.

One tip before heading out into the park from the parking lot is to leave a note on the vehicle or share a trip plan with someone, McMorrow adds.

"A family member calls us and says, 'My friend was supposed to be home by 5 o'clock then at least we know they told

someone where they plan to go in and kind of where they had planned to go,'" she said.

Her recommended list of items for a safe day out or multiple days out include making a trip plan, taking a compass and knowing how to use it, having a map, whether that's downloaded to a device or a paper version, and a water purifier,

She adds experience in the outdoors is invaluable and suggests people go to operating parks such as Algonquin Park and Kawartha Highlands before going to a non-operating park like the QEII.

"It's definitely not beginner back country," she said.

After the hikers were located, the OPP Central Region shared a video through Twitter depicting the hikers being spotted from the air, noting that in an emergency, people should not panic; stop; sit, think, observe and plan; stay put to help reduce time and search area; seek shelter and stay warm, and signal for help, as reported by the *Echo*.

It's important, McMorrow said, that visitors intending to stay overnight be aware that with limited designated camp sites that people have a backup plan for accommodations.

A non-operating park like the QEII presents greater challenges and issues if one gets lost or hurt.

"Unlike Algonquin or Kawartha Highlands, QEII is non-operating. So, non-operating parks typically have limited facilities and infrastructure and do not take camp site reservations or collect camping, or day-use fees," she said.

There is limited access to the park, she adds.

Popular starting point, Devils Lake, isn't just an access for the park, but is also used for residents and users of water-access cottages. It creates parking issues. There are also only less than 10 designated, first-come campsites available from that access point.

McMorrow said there have been no additions made to staff numbers, despite an anticipated growth in interest in the site, but the staff available will be directed to the areas of greatest need, such as Devils Lake, Victoria Falls and Little Gull Lake, which is the most popular day-use area.

McMorrow reminds users to follow "backcountry etiquette," which includes adopting a no trace approach to enjoying the outdoors and carrying everything out that you brought in. This is also related to proper food storage such as using sealed food containers and abiding by the Ontario Parks signage recommending the use of bear bags suspended from a tree branch for safety, as bears are drawn, to food but also to aromatic items such as cooking oil, toothpaste and deodorant. Expect bears to come out of hibernation mid-April and be most active in May, she said.

Although there is no quantifiable visitation data for the QEII, last year Ontario Parks had more than 11 million visitors, McMorrow said.

She adds, as of several weeks ago there has already been a 110 per cent increase in reservations for parks relative to last year and there is an expectation that will continue for the rest of the year.

"So we're definitely anticipating an increase interest to QEII," she said.



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# Learn about the Highlands' history at the museum

DARREN LUM

Staff Reporter

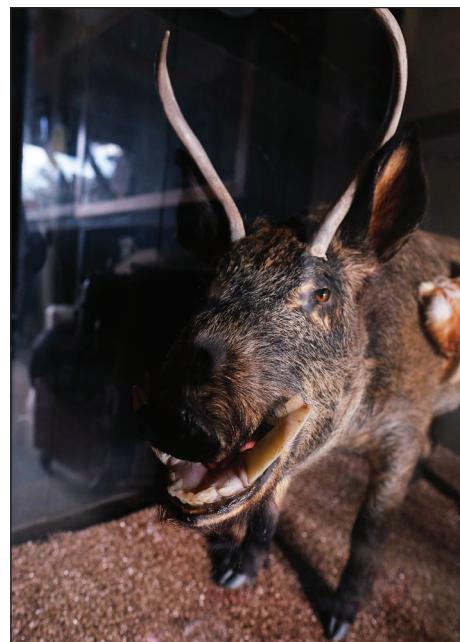
Currently, the museum is closed due to the provincial stay-at-home order. However when the province lifts the stay-at-home order the museum will once again welcome visitors.

Take a journey back in time and touch and see the history of the Highlands at the Haliburton Highlands Museum, located at 66 Museum Road, a few minutes from the village.

Kate Butler, the museum director, said the museum that was founded as the Haliburton Highlands Pioneer Museum in 1967 houses a vast array of historical artifacts from the indigenous peoples and community and those that came to the area to make their fortune with lumber, or to settle and grow a family.

The collection includes the *Haliburton County Echo* printing press; also tools from the past that will leave you scratching your head with its "What is it?" wall and case; hockey artifacts and memorabilia from the past 100 years, which shows the passion for the Canadian winter sport; black and white photos taken in the early 1900s by merchant and hobby photographer Daniel Gorrie, who captured historical highlights such as the first ever automobile sighting at the Grand Central Hotel in the Village of Haliburton, which wasn't received well by the locals according to the Lindsay Daily newspaper; hundreds of taxidermy birds, including dozens in one large glass case, which includes an example of the extinct passenger pigeon last seen in 1914. Learn about what life was like at the turn of last century and the cost of living with how a used car in 1929 would cost anywhere from \$85 to \$595.

See an example of the fabled Side Hill



The Sidehill Gouger is the legendary creature that lives deep in the woods of Haliburton, resembling a wild boar with wings. The Haliburton Highlands Museum has an example in a case. It was known to have the physical attribute of one pair of legs on its side being shorter than other to enable it to walk on the side of hills. /DARREN LUM Staff

Gouger, who was a wild-boar with wings. Shy by nature, the Gouger was forced to exist deep in the woods when settlers came in the late-19th century.

It possesses the unique attributes of having one set of its legs on a side of its body longer than the other to enable it to walk on steep slopes. The disparity of its legs unfortunately forced the Gouger to only walk in one direction, and if forced to turn around it would fall over.

It's wings, Butler said, were not for flight.



Haliburton Highlands Museum's Kate Butler holds up an iron, weighing close to nine kilograms while standing in front of the What is it? board of historic tools. For more information on visiting the museum to learn about the history of the area, which includes the Indigenous people and the settlers call (705) 457-2760 or email info@haliburtonhighlandsmuseum.com

"According to the legend though, his wings weren't actually big enough for him to get off the ground (which is probably a good thing!), but the Gouger was known to use them like fins to help it to swim," she wrote in an email.

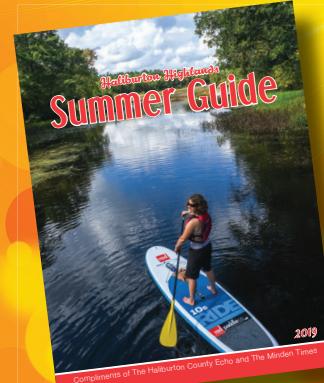
Note: this past week the museum pro-

vided the public with its Spring Activity Kits, which included crafts, gardening, scavenger hunts and more. It was recommended for children six to 10 and were by reservation for curb side pick-up this week.

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# Camp Towhee goes virtual, bringing Haliburton home

DARREN LUM

Staff Reporter

Like everywhere else in the province during this pandemic, there will be a virtual offering at Camp Towhee, which is looking to bring Haliburton to its young participants wherever they are.

The Child Development Institute (CDI), who run Camp Towhee, has been offering a virtual adaptation of its programming for children and youth in an effort to battle social isolation since last year when the pandemic disrupted in-person sessions in Haliburton.

Without participants coming to the Highlands, the camp will bring Haliburton to the participants by showing footage of the area, which was also carried out last year said Trish McKeough, Camp Towhee camp director and manager of therapeutic recreation programs at CDI.

"A couple of staff went to Towhee and ran a camp fire from Towhee. So that's a more concrete way that kids can feel more connected and I think we're looking to incorporate that more this year," she said.

She said there is the potential to use the Camp Towhee location as a backdrop to their Dungeons and Dragons offering, possibly using the example that Orcs have invaded Camp Towhee, illustrating that point with pictures of the camp.

Since its inception in 1968 Towhee has been improving the mental health of children and youth with learning disabilities; empowering them and giving them independence and a sense of belonging through group exercises and specialized programming, as per information provided by the Child Development Insti-



tute. Although there was a brief break in programming last fall, Camp Towhee has been running weekly sessions online since the turn of the year. Now, with students home for April Break, the organization has moved to offering daily sessions from April 12 to 16. They are described as an "innovative therapeutic intervention for children and youth with learning disabilities and mental health issues (LDMH)."

McKeough, who has 13 non-consecutive years at Camp Towhee in different capacities, said part of the power of the programming is related to the setting of the Highlands, but also the connections made.

"Part of the magic is Haliburton and part of the magic [is] the connection the kids make to each other and the staff and that's what we're very successful at being able to recreate virtually. Giving kids time to connect with each other and support their connections. Staff do a lot of one-on-one check-ins and chats with kids, so kids have that really important connection to their staff. They're really building that relationship as well," she said.

Camp Towhee held their summer virtual offerings to fulfill the need for people to have a social outlet and for support. Last year, Camp Towhee offered three two-week daytime sessions for six participants, which were led by two staff. It included Dungeons and Dragons, a food lovers one, called Taste of Towhee, one for movie fans where they watch movies, play movie-based games and then have discussions about the movies, as well as sessions related to leadership and nature.

Dungeons and Dragons is among the most popular sessions they host.

Using a videoconferencing platform like Zoom, participants create their character for the role-playing opportunity, he/she will come up with a back story of their character, determining their strengths and weaknesses, as well as their motivations.

A staff member will play the role of "dungeon master," who narrates the experience, setting the scene and outlining what the "adventure of the day" or the challenge is for that session. This could be defeating a monster, finding a treasure or rescuing someone. The different participant characters' will work together to resolve the challenge.

"The problem will be created in a way that it's big enough that no one character can deal with it on their own, so the kids role play this hero and they work together based on the abilities of their hero to solve the problem," McKeough said.

Another popular session is the Taste of Towhee. It's a cooking program that has been offered at the camp for years. Participants learn how to cook and become comfortable with following a recipe. McKeough said it's an interactive cooking

Camp Towhee, which is operated by the Child Development Institute (CDI), is hoping to bring Haliburton to its virtual programming participants this year. With their April Break session already started this week (April 12 – 16), the camp is described as a "innovative therapeutic intervention for children and youth with learning disabilities and mental health issues." /Photo by Zach Slootsky

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TV show. This is led by a staff member, who communicates before about the dish being made and the required ingredients. There will be 10 sessions, each two hours long, every day for two weeks. The evening programming was open to all participants and included a camp fire and online games such as Sculptory, which is like Pictionary, but sculpting with Plasticine.

Participation was similar to a typical year at 80 per cent of the usual enrolment.

There was close to 130 registered last summer, 200 for the year with a few repeats, including close to 15 that attended every session.

McKeough said the interesting aspect to this was how some participants registered for the virtual sessions, who never would have considered attending an in-person camp session. After their positive virtual experience, she said, many of these participants have indicated they would go to the camp when possible. Unlike in-person sessions, Camp Towhee allowed participants to be able to enrol in more than one session.

Although she was proud of what the camp was able to provide virtually when they started last year, McKeough admits there was a scramble to organize and implement programming related to the short notice. This year will be different, she said.

"And now with a little more lead time we're able to be a little broader and deeper and consider all options and get lots of feedback from the kids. You know raise the bar of the programming," she said.

There are still ideas being considered to bring more of Camp Towhee to participants, who take in the virtual offerings, she said.

"We haven't totally landed on that yet, but what can we do from camp? How can we be more intentional about creating that vision and imagery, creating that connection to Towhee," she said.

McKeough said the camp is hopeful for safe in-person meet-ups, whether that's in the city or at the camp in Haliburton, located a few kilometres outside town off of Hwy. 118.

"We're prepping very intensely for virtual and also prepping to be ready to do virtual plus, [which are in-person meet-ups], if circumstances allow and when circumstances allow," she said. "Time will tell if that is doable."





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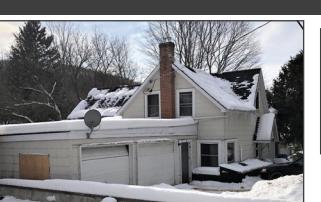




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Andrea Wilson\*\*  
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- yr round private rd





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# Hinbests 'living their dream' as soon-to-be owners of general store

from page 4

while continuing to offer a "great customer experience."

"It's a pleasure to me to be able to work

with the community and figure out what it is we need to do to keep that tradition going," he said.

While much will remain the same, Mike said a new addition to the store's offer-

ings - Affogato Cafe + Gelato - will bring a coffee shop to the building, and he and Katie hope to launch a winter campfire feature to create a destination for snowmobilers.

"The Robinsons always built the store off of, what are you having to drive a half an hour, or drive further away to get," said Mike. "If you're driving away for it, you're taking away from your family time. So can we bring it out to Dorset for you? That's my thoughts with all of it, is focusing on that idea. What do people need? Let's bring that to them. That's our job."

The community response has also been motivating to the Hinbests.

"It's just amazing how supportive the community is," said Mike. "To see that many positive vibes about it, and people willing to help you out, I just love that about this world. It's one of the reasons we moved up north - people hold the door open for you and they say good

morning to you, and that just showed that right away, people were like, what do you guys need, what can we help you with? I have yet to see one person who hasn't been totally supportive in trying to help us out."

Both Mike and Katie noted the excellence in staff, who they said are passionate about their work.

"We met with staff and every single one of them cared so much about working at Robinson's, and were so proud and passionate about it," said Katie.

"It was reassuring," said Mike. "There's a reason people love the place, well, it's because the staff do such a good job at it ... Once we talked to them we said, we're so lucky to have people like this to work with."

"It feels so nice to come in to something like that," said Katie.

For more information about Robinson's General Store, visit <http://www.robinsonsgeneralstore.ca/>.

*Crossword brought to you by*

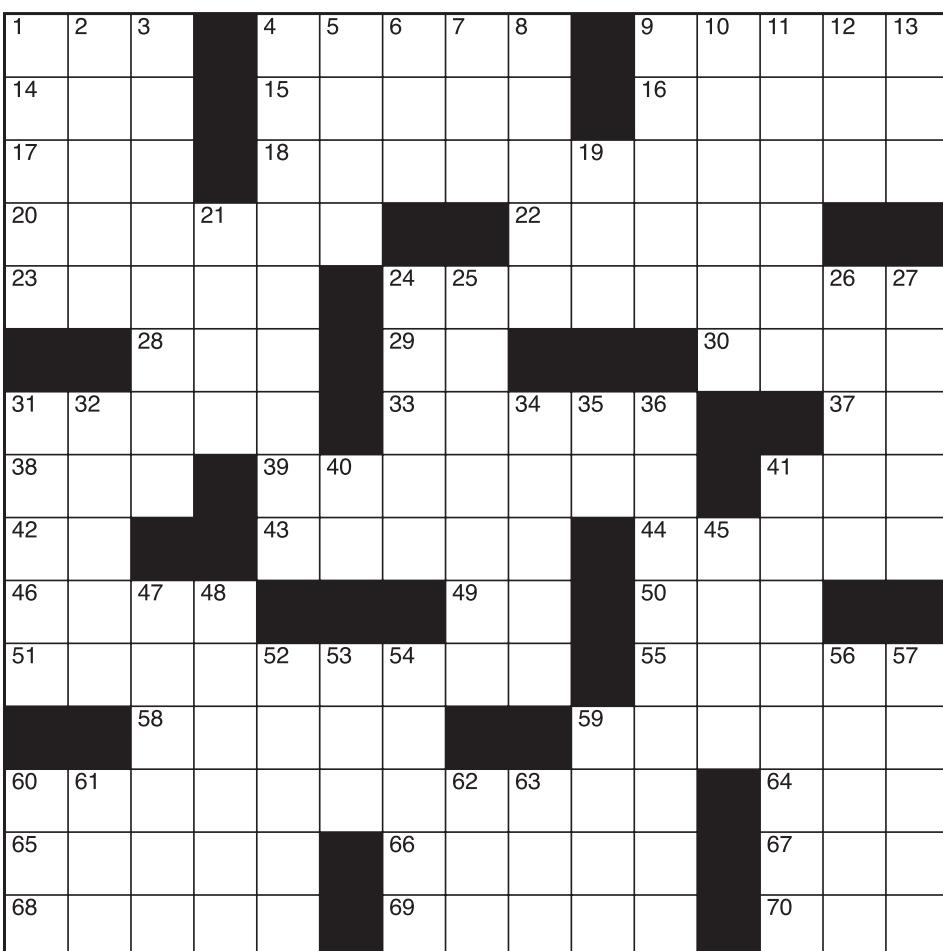
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## CLUES ACROSS

- Pituitary hormone (abbr.)
- Ceramic jars
- Monetary units
- Alias
- OSuperman' actor
- Britonic tribe
- Shorten
- LA Dodgers manager
- Hoarded
- Theatrically portray
- Noah's grandson
- Dependent
- Peyton's little brother
- Cools the house
- Principle part of
- Type of wrap
- Peels
- Commercial
- Make an attempt
- Arrange in steps
- U. Utah athlete
- Old English
- Trade
- Nostrils
- Ticket seller \_Hub
- Of I
- Institute legal proceedings against
- Takes apart
- Doorway
- Long int'l river (abbr.)

## CLUES DOWN

- Trailblazing athlete Gibson
- Former CBS News host
- Sign language
- Badgerlike mammal
- Thin strips of wood
- Brooklyn hoopster
- Portents of good or evil
- Footwear
- When you think you'll arrive
- Type of hoop
- About Holy Father
- Academic environment
- Extremely angry
- Surrenders
- Swiss mountain pass
- Sharp mountain ridge
- Erases
- Spielberg's alien
- Absurd
- Dorm worker
- Used to make pesticides
- The sister of your father or mother
- A way to let know
- Can't produce much vegetation
- Small streams
- Folk singer DiFranco
- Weights
- Start over
- Black Sea resort city
- Wimbledon champ
- Corporate executive (abbr.)
- Unskilled actor who overacts
- Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
- Of or relating to ears

Answers on page 18

## BIA In The Village: Spring has sprung

**S**PRING HAS officially begun and there's no better way to tell this than by celebrating the ice being out in Head Lake. Winter is behind us and the BIA is starting to make plans for the warm months ahead.

While spring and summer may look different than usual [again], that doesn't mean there isn't lots to look forward to. Plans are underway for our 2021 banners, which will be hung in the coming weeks. The installation of the town banners is always a highlight for me, as they showcase much of the talent located within the Haliburton Highlands. This year will be no different!

Our inaugural Bounce In And Win contest was held during the month of March and was met with great success! Congratulations to winner Kori Roberts, who spotted Burton the Bunny at Wind in the Willows Spa. Kori choose Wind in the Willows as her business of choice and received a \$100 gift card to the spa. Thank you to all the businesses who supported the contest and every-

one who participated. Keep your eyes open for more exciting promotions down the road.

The current lockdown restrictions mean many of our downtown businesses are once again not open to walk in traffic, but keep in mind they are still offering curbside services or take out. Contact them to coordinate a shopping or at-home dining experience. Our local businesses need your support more than ever and will do their best to accommodate your needs. For a full list of BIA member businesses, visit [www.downtownhaliburton.ca](http://www.downtownhaliburton.ca).

I also want to take this opportunity to remind you that the BIA is always working behind the scenes to make downtown Haliburton a vibrant and beautiful place. If you have ideas or comments or suggestions, we would love to hear from you. You can reach us by emailing: [haliburtonbia@mail.com](mailto:haliburtonbia@mail.com). Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for the latest news and highlights.

Until next time, stay safe, stay healthy and stay strong.

*BIA in*



*angelica  
ingram*

**The Village**

County	COVID-19 Contacts, Cases, Hospitalizations, and Deaths by County							
	Current Cases Not Resolved	Current High Risk Contacts	Current Probable Cases	Confirmed Cases (Total to date)	Confirmed Cases Resolved (Total to Date)	Hospitalizations (Total to date)	Confirmed Deaths (Total to date)	Probable Deaths (Total to date)
Haliburton	8	11	1	79	70	3	1	0
Kawartha Lakes	35	63	1	633	556	32	42	13
Northumberland	99	263	0	632	521	18	12	0
Total***	142	422	2	1,344	1,147	53	55	13

## Eight cases in Haliburton County

Haliburton County has eight unresolved cases of COVID-19 and 11 high-risk contacts according to data uploaded by the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit on April 12. /Screenshot from HKPRDHU website

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- Wet slip boathouse, in town location

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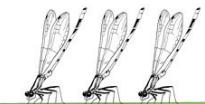
  
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# A complete history of West G Pizza and Grill

community news

## west guilford

Eleanor Cooper  
754-2278

This story of a store has been a long time in the making, and many are the phone calls made as the information is gathered. Thanks to all who knew the times and names as they happened.

West G. Grill began in the 1920s by Mary and Will Boice whose enterprise established what was known as Riverside Store whose name has changed as various people took over the operation. From the Boices it passed into the hands of daughter, Hazel, and husband Cecil Scott, then to Murray and Marguerite Scott. In the beginning, Beth and David Pequegnat travelled from Kitchener with their parents, Petra and Harold to see their grandparents. Harold provided the first wiring of the store. David picked flowers en route because his grandmother loved them so, with geraniums grown in coffee pots in the window sills as well as surrounding the vegetable garden in back of the store.

When the store changed hands to Roy and Mabel Hellems it evolved into a restaurant. David Pequegnat (now Boice) and

Bill Croft used to be served lunch there in the year that each taught at S.S. No. 2 and 3 Guilford, now the Community Centre.

A succession of people followed who owned, leased or operated the place. They are not necessarily in chronological order! While the Hellems were owners, fire destroyed the building but it was reconstructed and in a few years Faye and Greenville Stamp undertook the management. June and Bill van der Horst then passed it on to Brian and Iris Abbs who named it Stop 530. Next Jack and Anne Mawbey were in charge before Elaine and George Johnston.

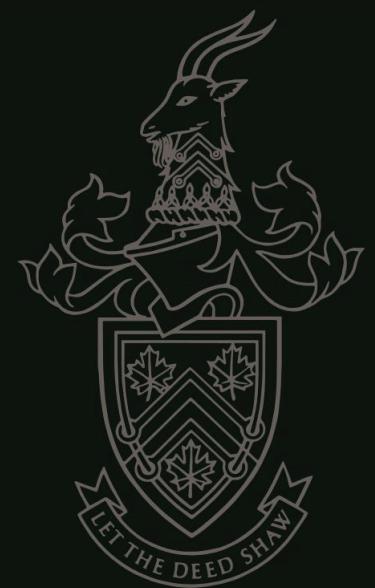
It then became known as Bernie's Place under George and Marge Nicholls, capably operating in kitchen. Janet (Bellefleur) Tice, next in line, handed the reins on to Lia McKechnie and Scott Cook.

The Corner Café was the next significant renovation when Italo Meggone installed new pizza ovens. Together with Sandy Griffith theirs was of longest duration since the Hellems years.

Now Rebecca Willbee continues the history of store begun so long ago. Nila Reynolds would be appalled at the brevity and inaccuracies of this report! However, I wished to acknowledge the work of each one who has kept the business going for so many years. Thanks to you who have answered my calls and requests for information.

## Fleming College

### Board of Governors Opportunity



A tremendous opportunity exists for business and community leaders to join Fleming College's Board of Governors.

For more information please go to:  
[flemingcollege.ca/board-of-governors](http://flemingcollege.ca/board-of-governors)

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**County Life**

# Interest in off-grid living 'on the rise' as electrical grid deteriorates

from page 5

says there has been a significant increase in the number of people looking to transition to off-grid living. Since launching in 2013, Haliburton Solar + Wind has completed 462 off-grid projects, with over half of those taking place since 2018.

"With the rising cost of hydro, people are trying to figure out how they can plan their future and have a consistent, expected expense for hydro. If they go off-grid, they've made their purchase up front and then there isn't a lot of ongoing costs," Barberi said.

Ideson added, "For a lot of people too, it's about reliability. Our electrical grid is deteriorating and becoming more and more expensive to maintain. Eventually, it would be good for us to streamline ourselves towards fully off-grid [services]. It's a very big, growing market. It's a niche market, and there are very, very few people out there that are knowledgeable about off-grid living."

For more information, visit [www.haliburtonsolardandwind.com](http://www.haliburtonsolardandwind.com).

## Municipality of Dysart et al Public Notice

### Waste Management By-laws

The Municipality of Dysart et al will be considering amendments to the following by-laws at the April 27, 2021 meeting of Regular Council:

- By-law to Govern the Management of Waste
- By-law to Impose Fees for the Management of Waste

Get more information on these by-laws at [www.dysartetal.ca/waste](http://www.dysartetal.ca/waste)

John Watson, Environmental Manager  
[jwatson@dysartetal.ca](mailto:jwatson@dysartetal.ca)  
 705-457-1740 x 659



705-457-1740 [www.dysartetal.ca](http://www.dysartetal.ca)



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[manager@canoefm.com](mailto:manager@canoefm.com)

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had been revised for some immunocompromised people, including transplant and certain cancer patients.

### Operational deficit of \$530,000

Haliburton Highlands Health Services is receiving reimbursement for additional expenses required during the pandemic, though a significant deficit remains.

"While this continues to be a very challenging year with the ongoing pressures due to the pandemic and our collective efforts in responding, we're pleased to report that our cash flow issues have significantly improved now that we're receiving reimbursements," said David O'Brien, reporting on behalf of the finance committee which met on March 22.

O'Brien said reimbursements for eligible expenses up to the end of November 2020 have been received, as well as funding for lost revenues for long-term care up to the end of January 2021.

"As a result, HHHS's operational deficit is about \$530,000 as of January 31, of which \$275,000 relates to lost revenues as a result of COVID-19 service closures in hospital and community programs, and about \$255,000 is related to ongoing staffing pressures ... resulting in increased cost for overtime, sick time and benefits."

The COVID-19 expense reimbursement program has been extended until March 31, 2021, but O'Brien said "we're anticipating to still be in a significant deficit operating position at the year end. We're working with our funder to resolve these issues and are hopeful that we will be funded for our revenue losses as well as our operating pressures and one-time costs."

"Regardless of these financial pressures, we remain committed to the measures we have taken to keep our residents, patients, clients, staff and community safe," said O'Brien. He said they would continue advocating for appropriate funding to address shortfalls.

### Virtual primary care clinic to open

The Haliburton County Virtual Primary Care Clinic will launch next month, using the telemedicine suite, staff, equipment and technology already in place in the community.

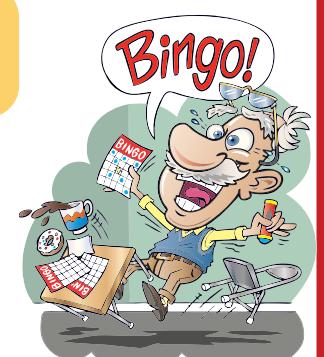
"This clinic will provide primary care to patients in Haliburton County who currently do not have a local primary care provider," said Plummer in her CEO report. "Services will include acute and episodic care, chronic disease management, and other services normally accessed through a family physician, and will also connect patients with local and regional services such as specialists. The county's unattached patients will be able to receive ongoing care at this clinic with a consistent physician and the clinic will work with Health Care Connect and Haliburton Highlands Family Health Team to transition patients to a local family physician as they become available."

At first, the clinic is planned to operate for two-and-a-half days per week, increasing depending on need.

"It's intended to help fill a gap in the community and give people that local primary care support until such time as they can transition over to the family health team as capacity there becomes available," said Plummer in the meeting. "We're very excited to be able to offer that."

More information – including details on how patients can book the services - will be rolled out in the next few weeks.

**B I N G O**



Haliburton Echo

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*Up to 48 hour work week Summer (6 days).  
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Onondaga Camp, Minden, seeks 1 Staff SEASONAL (2021) **\$14.50/hr**

This position does not have daily set hours but is an on-call position generally between the hours of 9am-6pm and will average 6 hrs/day of work at \$14.25/hr. This role requires the candidate to live off-site and retrieve the camp vehicle from the camp on a daily basis.

**Responsibilities**

- Pick up prescriptions/supplies as needed for the Health Centre.
- Do a daily 'town run' to pick up supplies that are needed for camp programs or office.
- Pick up supplies in Toronto (or outside of Minden/Haliburton) as needed.
- Handling of incoming and outgoing mail.
- Ensure that vehicles are scheduled and taken for oil changes as needed.
- Ensure the vehicles have adequate gas and fill as necessary.
- Keep vehicles clean and free of garbage.
- Keep the exterior of the vehicles clean; have them washed as needed

**Necessary Qualifications/Competencies**

- Full G License & minimum age of 21 years old
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*A truly Canadian summer tradition, Onondaga Camp offers an extraordinary environment for kids to play, explore, achieve and grow. Situated on the shores of Middle Bob Lake near Minden, Ontario, Onondaga inspires the best in outdoor fun, learning and adventure for girls and boys from six to 16 years old. Onondaga Camp values the diversity of people. We welcome and encourage applications from people with disabilities. Arrangements will be provided, on request, to support candidates taking part in all aspects of the selection process. All responses will be handled with strict confidence.*

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## 400 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



### DYSART ET AL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

#### PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT Year round casual Haliburton Welcome Centre Staff

The Municipality of Dysart et al is seeking year round casual Haliburton Welcome Centre staff to join our team. A detailed job description is available at <https://www.dysartetal.ca/en/municipal-government/careers.aspx> for your review.

Please submit a resume and cover letter, preferably by email, no later than noon on April 29, 2021 to the attention of Laura Casey, Manager of Human Resources and Payroll at [lcasey@dysartetal.ca](mailto:lcasey@dysartetal.ca).

Alternatively, your submission may be mailed to P.O. Box 389, Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0.

We thank all of those who apply, but only those selected for an interview will be contacted. Accommodations for applicants with disabilities will be provided upon request. The Municipality of Dysart et al is an equal opportunity employer. Personal information is collected in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and will be used only for employment purposes.

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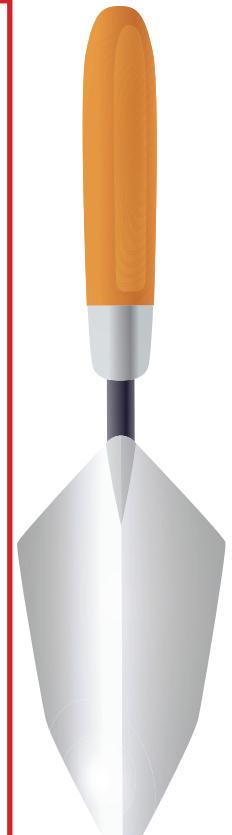
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520

THANK YOU



## With Sincere Thanks...

The family of the late Leopoldina "Leo" Dobrzensky-Dobrzenicz wish to express their appreciation to family, friends, neighbours and the many others for their kindness and support during this difficult time. Many thanks to Dr. Scott Coles, Dr. Judy Suke and the nursing & support staff

at the Haliburton Hospital for their compassionate and excellent care of mom during her last days. We are deeply grateful for the countless messages of sympathy, cards of condolence, tributes, flowers, prayers, Mass offerings and the generous donations made in mom's name to the Pregnancy Care & Family Support Centre, Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation and to the Volunteer Dental Outreach for Haliburton County. A special thank you to all who attended the visitation and participated in mom's funeral Mass at St. Anthony of Padua Mission Church. This wonderful celebration of life was offered by Father Casmir who provided a very moving eulogy - capturing the spirit of mom's deep faith. Lastly, the attention and professionalism provided by Dwaine Lloyd and Kate Lovett of the Haliburton Community Funeral Home was a comfort and relief to our family in our time of sorrow.

Ever curious, giving and productive - mom drew her spiritual and cultural existence from her connection with the people of the Haliburton Highlands. She took great pride in sharing her friendship and knowledge with her beloved community. Thank you for supporting and encouraging mom throughout the years to make a difference in the community where she felt at peace.

Sadly, she has left this world but her legacy continues.

John, Zdislava & Margaret Dobrzensky Dobrzenicz

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650 OBITUARIES



## Scott Valentine

(Resident of Lindsay, Ontario)

Peacefully at Victoria Manor on Friday April 2, 2021 in his 59th year. Beloved husband of late Heather Valentine (nee McLean). Cherished son of Marg Valentine and the late Peter Valentine. Loving father of Dan (Nina) and Conar. Dear brother of Lorie (Tom Reddering). Also lovingly remembered by his nieces and nephews and the McLean Family. Predeceased by son Jack, and his brother Mark. Scott was a builder and a gifted Stone Mason. He was a lover of music and played guitar, loved his bon fires and singalongs. He enjoyed scuba diving, skiing and travelling with family and friends.

### Celebration Of Life

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. Donations to the Alzheimer Society or planting a tree in Scott's memory would be appreciated by the family. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **COBOCONK COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 6644 Hwy. #35, Coboconk, Ontario (705)454-3913.

[www.communityfuneralhomes.com](http://www.communityfuneralhomes.com)



640 IN MEMORIAM

**Vic Stewart**  
 June 13, 1937 - April 17, 2007

*Wine can become better with age, missing you doesn't.*

Miss You  
 Carol

**Want to be part of a green project?**

The Haliburton County Green Burial Society seeks new Board members to help bring green burial to Haliburton County. Do you have skills with photography, social media, education, administration, finance, or municipal government? To discuss, please contact [hhgreenburialsociety@gmail.com](mailto:hhgreenburialsociety@gmail.com). *New members welcome.*

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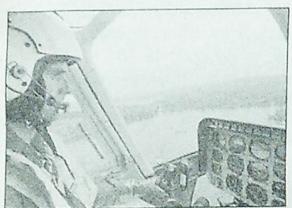
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*Inside*  
**THIS WEEK**

**County life**

*The Echo's popular summer publication returns in this issue*



**Flying fish descend on local lakes:**

Ministry of Natural Resources pilot Doug Hotlby dropped more than 83,000 trout from the air

Page 3

**No more fear:**

Exchange student's mother gets a warm Highlands welcome

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**It's a go!**  
**Theatre**  
**fundraising**  
**meets goal**

*Work to convert gym at HHSS will begin this fall*

**MARTHA PERKINS**

*Editor*

Throughout the county, patrons of the performing arts are shouting "Bravo!" as the curtains close on one of the county's most successful fundraising productions.

In six months, a group of volunteers has been able to raise enough money to transform a gymnasium at the high school into the Haliburton Highlands Performing Arts Centre.

After a meeting with the school's architect on Thursday, the project "is a go," says an ecstatic and relieved Caryl

“

*I'm so excited – I just can't believe it*

**CARYL MOULTON**

”

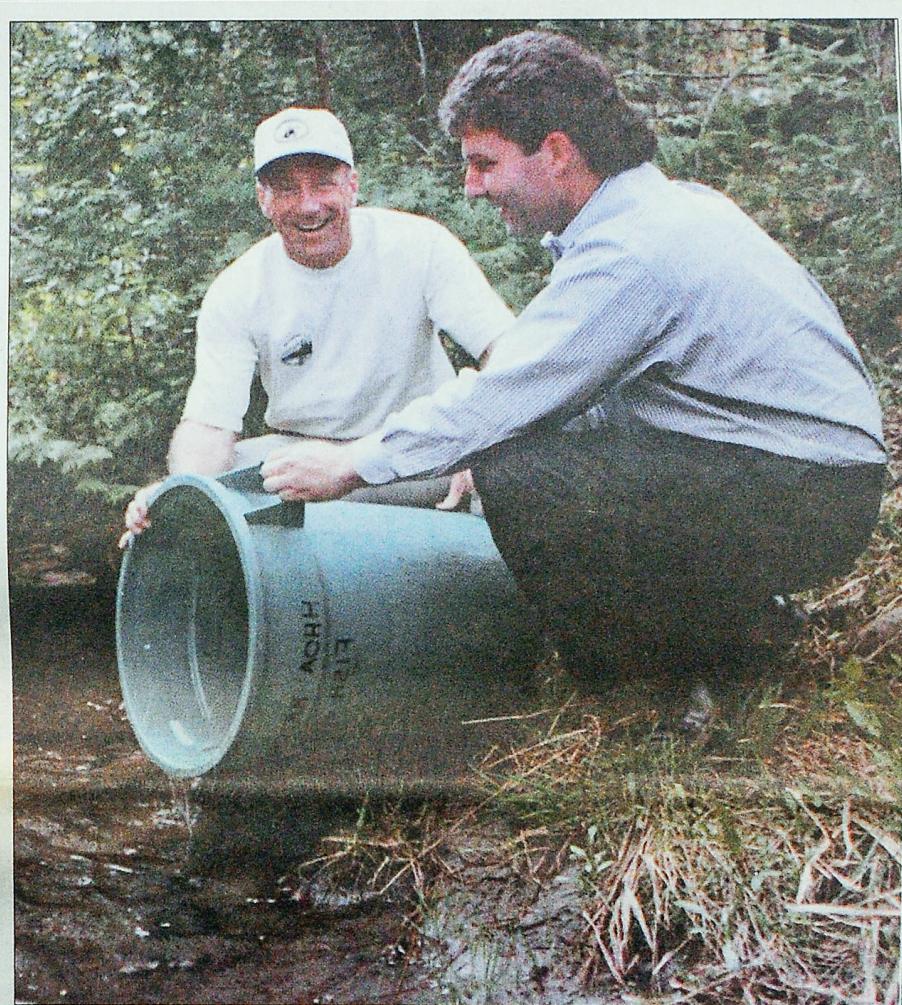
Moulton, who along with Linda Beachli and Curtis Eastmure, came up with the plan last November.

The renovations will be part of the work being done at the high school, but last fall, the Ministry of Education said it would not help with the funding. Since turning a gym into a theatre is a lot less expensive than building a new theatre, riding the coattails of the high school construction was seen as an ideal opportunity to get a proper theatre at a relatively low price. However, the money had to be raised before the projects were completed and the construction crews moved on.

"I'm so excited – I just can't believe it," said Moulton, who announced the project's success to Friday night's audience of Night Watch, the last Highlands Little Theatre production on the old stage. When the troupe hosts its next performance to celebrate its 20th anniversary, it will be in the new theatre.

In January, raising more than

*See Theatre page 4*



**Gone Fishing:**

After opening the '98 camping season at Algonquin Provincial Park on Friday, John Snobelen, the Minister of Natural Resources, flew into Head Lake for a tour of the MNR's fire base before touring the Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association's fish hatchery near Haliburton. HHOA volunteers raised 33,000 young fish over the winter and asked Snobelen, left, and fellow cabinet minister, MPP Chris Hodgson, to release 400 of them into the Drag River near Dover's Spring.

**Snobelen gets first hand look at local conservation work**

**MARTHA PERKINS**

*Editor*

The next time John Snobelen gets a request for assistance from the Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association, he'll already know how the association puts the Ministry of Natural Resources' money to use to enhance local fishing opportunities.

He'll even know one of the best places to catch one or two of those fish should he ever want to cast his lines in Highlands water.

On Friday, the Minister of Natural Resources flew into Haliburton for a brief tour of the MNR's fire base as well as the fish hatchery run by the HHOA volunteers on County Road 1.

Before he left, he and his fellow cabinet minister, MPP Chris Hodgson, who organized the impromptu visit, took a turn at releasing 400 of the HHOA's young fish into the river near Dover's Spring.

Efforts by the local outdoors association are an important way to improve the province's

fisheries and assist the MNR in collecting information about fish genetics, Snobelen said in a brief interview after releasing the fish into the Drag River.

In the past, the MNR used to operate fish hatcheries. Many were closed as part of the province's cost-cutting initiatives and some of the money was re-diverted to the Community Fisheries Improvement Program. The HHOA applied to this program to get the money to raise 33,000 hatchlings over the winter. Volunteers are now in the process of releasing these young fish into lakes and rivers in the Highlands and southern Muskoka.

"The local residents know the area better than anyone else. They have the inherent wisdom of what the area needs," Snobelen said of the value of the HHOA's involvement.

Snobelen flew into Head Lake on Friday afternoon after taking part in the official launch of the 1998 camping season at Algonquin Park.

It was Snobelen's first visit to Haliburton as minister.

*Special IN THIS ISSUE... the Echo's annual HOME & COTTAGE SERVICES DIRECTORY*

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**HALLS LAKE**  
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**BEECH LAKE**  
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Get that "Lodge Like" feeling at this 3-bdrm, 1 bath, four season cottage. Octagon shaped open concept great room with exposed Douglas fir beams creates warmth and charm. Woodburning fireplace is the main focal point. The full-sized kitchen with island is great for entertaining. Western exposure provides fabulous sunset views. 131 feet of frontage with a mixture of sand and rock shoreline. Cantilever dock or in your shaded picnic area with hammock. Great waterfront privacy.

**LITTLE GLAMOR LAKE**  
**\$529,000**



It has the best view on the lake! Traditional 3-bdrm, 1 bath cottage. Large windows, compact kitchen with great layout for cooking. Walk-out to wrap around deck with glass railings. Large sunroom. Pretty lake views. Detached single garage. Nice level sunny lot with a gentle slope to the lake with lawn area and firepit.

**DRAG RIVER**  
**\$449,000**



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